

Borough of



Accrington.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
FOR THE YEAR 1918.

ARTHUR GREENHALGH,

M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.



Jas. Broadley Ltd, Printers, Accrington.

To the Sanitary Authority of the Borough of Accrington.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of the Borough, for the year ending 31st December, 1918.

The population this year has been computed by the Registrar General to be 39,886 for the calculation of the death-rate, and 44,669 for the calculation of the birth-rate.

The routine sanitary administration of the Borough has gone on throughout the year without interruption from strikes, and has been successful in keeping the Borough in a reasonable degree of cleanliness. We are fortunate in this town in having a very efficient system of sewers and drains, and well paved back streets. This fundamental provision for cleanliness allows our great rainfall to act as a self-cleansing arrangement, washing and cleaning the streets of the Borough in a most thorough way. Cleanliness, personal and corporate, is the foundation upon which good health stands.

Judging from the condition of the children in the Public Elementary Schools of the Borough, I am warranted in saying that the general standard of personal cleanliness is good, and is improving. In over 90% of the children examined little or no fault could be found under this head. A good deal of avoidable work has been inflicted upon the Scavenging Department by the bad state of repair of the coal carts, and also by the overloading of the same; this has led to much dropping of fine coal in the streets, causing a great dust nuisance in fine, dry, windy weather, and making it impossible to get the ventilation of houses carried out satisfactorily.

The births registered have slightly increased as against 1917, from 585 to 611, and the number of deaths have also increased from 565 to 601, so that the natural increase of population, that is the excess of births over deaths, has

come down to the very small figure of 10, the smallest we have record of ; last year it was 20, and the average for the past 10 years works out at 179, and for the last five years at 56. Of the 611 deaths, 57 have been those of infants under one year of age, giving us an infant mortality of 93.28 as against 95.27 for 1917, and for 1916 it was 89.28, this being the third year in succession in which our infant mortality has come below the hundred mark. The first year of life is the most difficult to live through, depending almost entirely upon the wisdom of others, and our nurses have, during the last four years been trying to instruct and improve this mother wisdom in the care of infant life. Every baby born that we have got notification of, has been visited and re-visited once a month until twelve months of age, if it has lived so long, and request is now made that we shall be notified of any departure from health so that further visits may be made to advise the parent the best way to proceed, and where necessary to help in the nursing. I am satisfied that very good work is being done in the interest of child welfare, and the mothers of the Borough are finding the centre very helpful. They may come any morning from 9-30 to 11-0, and Thursday afternoon from 3-0 to 4-30 to have their babies weighed, and to receive advice about any difficulties they may have regarding the well-being of their little ones. We have also done much to find out expectant mothers in order to advise them as to the care of their health, for it is during this period that most good or evil can be done for the child's welfare. Common-sense guidance during this time will, I am convinced, save untold trouble afterwards. Many women during this period live lives of extreme drudgery, using up their natural strength upon less important things than the one all-important for future welfare ; and so we have year after year an appalling list of deaths of infants certified as due to premature birth or congenital defects. Substantial progress in infant welfare must begin here ; do something to reduce the drudgery that at present some expectant mothers have to encounter, and the babies will gain power to fight the battle of life.

Despite the prevalence of Measles, and an increase in the incidence of Diphtheria, there have been only 20 deaths recorded as due to the seven principal Zymotic Diseases.

Influenza, which was very prevalent in epidemic form on two occasions (July and November) during the year, was responsible for 57 deaths : 28 males and 29 females. In addition to this, 67 deaths were certified as due to Pneumonia, and probably some of the latter were of Influenza origin. March, June, and October were the only months in which there were no deaths certified from Influenza. A table, showing an analysis of the 57 deaths from Influenza will be found in the report, showing the age period at death, the weekly distribution, and sex. 11 of these deaths occurred away from home. Of the total of 57 deaths, 6 occurred below the age of 15 years, 34 were over 15 and under 50 ; 12 were over 50 and under 70 ; and 5 over 70 years of age. Considering the virulence of the disease, its infectious nature, and the extent of the two epidemic visitations, I think we may congratulate ourselves that we came off as well as we did. The Health Committee along with myself took the matter under special consideration, and as a result 10,000 hand bills were distributed, indicating the first symptoms of the disease and its general nature, and the necessity for immediately taking it seriously. Employers of labour were advised to send men home to bed on the first signs of the disease, and not allow them to spread the disease to their neighbours. The Sanitary Inspector was requested to make special efforts to remove all refuse as speedily as he could, and with the consent of the Health Committee I prepared a typewritten account of the disease, to guide the teachers in the schools of the Borough in giving a lesson to the children regarding the natural history of the complaint, and the best methods of preventing it or treating it if it occurred.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR GREENHALGH,

Medical Officer of Health.

Population.—The Registrar General estimates the civil population for the calculation of birth-rate at 44,669, for death-rate at 39,866.

New Houses.—During the year only 1 new house has been certified as fit for occupation as against 4 for 1917, 8 for 1916, 42 for 1915, 136 for 1914, and 161 for 1913.

Deaths.—542 deaths (247 males and 295 females) have been registered in the Borough during the year, giving a crude death-rate equal to 13.69 per 1,000 of the estimated population per annum.

Deaths of all soldiers and sailors, whether occurring on active service or in any way have been excluded from this report by orders from the Government.

8 deaths were “uncertified” either by the Coroner or by a registered medical practitioner, 5 males and 3 females; 35 deaths, 20 males and 15 females, have been certified by the Coroner.

The report from Mr. Townsend, the Cemetery Registrar, states that he has received for interment 26 infants who have not been born alive.

Death-Rate Corrected.—Arrangements have been made by the Registrar General for a list of births and deaths which have occurred outside the districts of their “fixed or usual residence” to be sent to their rightful district Medical Officers for inclusion in their statistics.

In the case of Accrington, this list amounts to 84 deaths and 3 births to be included, and 21 deaths excluded. The total deaths appertaining to the Borough are as follows :

Deaths occurring in Borough (excluding 40 in the Victoria Hospital, and excluding 3 other deaths of " non-residents ")	499
Total deaths in Victoria Hospital.....	40
Less deaths of persons in Victoria Hospital residing outside the Borough (non-residents)	22
Deaths of Accrington residents in Victoria Hospital	— — 18
Deaths of Accrington residents occurring outside the Borough :—	
Haslingden Union Workhouse	42
Blackburn	10
Blackpool	2
Bolton	1
Bury	2
Baildon	1
Chesterfield.....	1
Clayton-le-Moors	2
Crosthwaite, Westmorland	1
Darwen	1
Elswick, Fylde	1
Harwich	1
Heysham	1
Kingston-on-Hull	1
Lancaster	3
Manchester	1
Preston	5
Prestwich	4
Penrith	1
Ramsbottom	1
Southport	1
Swinton and Pendlebury	1
	— — 84
	<u>601</u>

giving a corrected death-rate of 15.07 per 1,000 per annum, as against 13.88 for the year 1917.

The following were the crude death-rates for England and Wales during 1918 :—

England and Wales	17.7	per 1,000 living.
96 Great Towns (including London)	17.6	"
148 Small Towns	17.9	"
London	16.1	"
Accrington : Crude	13.6	"
" Corrected	15.0	"

Accrington :—

Crude annual death-rate per 1,000	13.6
Corrected " " (including 84 deaths outside the Borough, and excluding 22 " non-residents " at the Victoria Hospital, and 3 others)	15.0
Births :—Males	323
Females.....	288
	611
Deaths :—Males.....	278
Females	323
	601
Excess of births over deaths.....	10
Deaths of infants over one year of age.....	57
giving an Infant Mortality per 1,000 births of...	93.28

The total number of births, deaths, natural increase, and number of infant deaths for the past ten years are as follows :—

	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909
Births	611	585	728	751	884	894	847	792	926	946
Deaths	601	565	543	650	640	647	532	711	600	679
Natural Increase	10	20	185	101	244	247	315	81	326	267
Infant deaths .	57	56	65	78	104	104	65	143	101	117

Births.—611 births—323 males and 288 females—have been registered, giving a birth-rate equal to 13.67 per 1,000 per annum.

The following table shows an analysis allocated to the eight wards of the Borough, specifying legitimate and illegitimate :—

	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total
West Ward	68	3	71
Central Ward	79	6	85
North Ward	78	2	80
Peel Park Ward	65	5	70
East Ward	66	1	67
South Ward	87	7	94
Higher Antley Ward	57	1	58
Spring Hill Ward	80	3	83
Inward transfers	1	2	3
	581	30	611

Infant Mortality.—This term means the number of deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 births registered during the year. There have been 611 births registered, and 57 deaths, which works out to an infant mortality of 93.28.

The infantile death-rates for England and Wales during 1918 are as follows :—

England and Wales	97
96 Great Towns (including London) . .	106
148 Smaller Towns	94
London	107
Accrington	93

Nurse Munro's report as to the 57 deaths is as follows :—

49 died before we had notification of illness, and so no effort could be made by the Infant Welfare Staff. Of these there were 18 in which Premature Birth was certified as the cause of death.

In 8 cases the nurses took part in the conduct of the cases, assisting and guiding the nursing, and supplying little needful requisites for the care and comfort of the sick babies.

In a great number of cases the nurses were able to render assistance with great success. As time goes on I hope that in all cases of illness among young children, where the services of the nurses would be useful, the parents will make application to the Centre for the nurse to visit. Especially should this be done at the earliest possible moment, at the very commencement of illness, and not be put off until serious complications have arisen. At present there is a disposition to put off calling in a doctor or the nurse until the child has become seriously ill, and so making preventive treatment of no avail.

Notification of Births Act, 1917.—The notification under this Act has been better carried out than ever before but is yet lax, as is shown by the accompanying table.

	Infants registered during 1918.	Infants born Jan. 1st to Dec. 31st, 1918.	Births notified.	Births not notified.
January	45	38	35	3
February	42	43	42	1
March	45	42	36	6
April	63	63	48	15
May	58	52	40	12
June	52	58	46	12
July	46	35	24	11
August	45	49	38	11
September	52	54	46	8
October	69	58	55	3
November	45	45	42	3
December	46	50	49	1
Outward transfers	3	...	...	...
	611	587	501	86

This table shows :—

- (1) Number of births registered.
- (2) Infants born.
- (3) Births notified during the first 36 hours.
- (4) Births not notified but found out later.

During the year 5,516 visits have been paid to the homes where infants were present, 92 to expectant mothers ; in addition to these, 1,480 mothers have visited the Centre for instruction and advice, 424 of these have been morning visits.

Zymotic Diseases.—The seven principal Zymotic Diseases have caused 20 deaths, giving a Zymotic death-rate of .50. Measles 3, Typhoid Fever 1, Smallpox 0, and Scarlet Fever 1.

We have no form of isolation except for Smallpox, but arrangements have been made with the Bury & District Joint Hospital to receive all cases which the Medical Officer of Health thinks desirable to have removed.

Scarlet Fever.—During the year only 7 cases of this disease have been reported, one of which was removed to hospital, and one proved fatal. The average for the last five years works out at 44.

Measles.—Measles has been very prevalent during the year, 430 cases have been notified, and 3 deaths have resulted from it. The notification of this disease has been a great advantage, it has enabled me to have the cases visited by the nurse, and the seriousness of the complaint brought clearly before parents, and advice given as to the proper nursing and the prevention of complication. In this way, a great deal of suffering has been saved, and I hope many of the baneful after results of this disease will have been prevented.

Typhoid Fever has been certified as the cause of 1 death out of 6 cases reported ; 5 of the 6 were removed to hospital, which must have been a relief to the household where the disease occurred as well as a benefit to the patient. The figures for 1918 are the same as those for 1917, and these have been the two best years recorded both as regards prevalence and death-rate.

The following table shows the number of cases of this disease notified, and the deaths therefrom since 1891 to the present time :—

Period.	Notified.	Deaths.	Case mortality per cent.
1891 to 1895	298	38	12.7
1896 to 1900	222	39	17.5
1901 to 1905	143	35	24.4
1906 to 1910	102	31	30.4
1911	15	8	53.3
1912	18	5	27.7
1913	22	6	27.2
1914	10	3	30.0
1915	12	6	50.0
1916	10	3	30.0
1917	6	1	16.6
1918	6	1	16.6
	<hr/> 864 <hr/>	<hr/> 176 <hr/>	<hr/> 20.3 <hr/>

Diphtheria.—This disease has been unusually prevalent during the year and has been of a very virulent nature. Of the 13 cases notified 8 have died, some of them after only a very short illness. One case was removed to hospital and recovered.

Tuberculosis.—Tuberculous diseases of all kinds have been responsible for 55 deaths, as against 51 for 1917, and 55 for 1916. The death certificates indicate that 42 deaths were due to affections of the lungs, 4 to affections of the membrane of the brain, and the remaining 9 to affections of other organs.

The following cases of Tuberculosis have been notified during the year.

65 cases of Tuberculosis of the Lungs, and
9 cases of other forms of Tuberculosis.

Cancer.—Cancer has caused 49 deaths, as against an average of 48 for the last 10 years.

Water Supply.—An uninterrupted supply of excellent water has been maintained throughout the Borough during the year.

Disinfecting Apparatus.—Our steam disinfecting apparatus is more than adequate for our needs, and continues to work satisfactorily.

Abattoirs.—The Public Abattoirs are regularly inspected, and are under the constant care of Mr. Walsh, who resides on the premises.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.—During the year 37 samples were purchased in the administration of the Food and Drugs Act, of which the following are details :—

Articles Purchased.	Number analysed	FORMAL.		INFORMAL.		Refer. Number	Action taken.
		Genuine	Not Genuine	Genuine	Not Genuine		
Milk	25	22	2	1	...	1414 1423	Fined £10 and costs. Fined £20 and costs.
Beer.....	4	4	...	...	...	...
Cheese	2	...	...	2	...	...
Lard	1	...	...	1	...	...
Oatmeal	1	1	...	...	...	...
Lemon Marmalade	1	1	...	...	...	...
Strawberry Jam	1	1	...	...	...	...
Apple Jam	1	1	...	...	...	...
Damson Jam	1	1	...	...	...	...
Total	37	31	2	4	...	...

PUBLIC HEALTH, MILK AND CREAM REGULATIONS, 1912.

Milk and Cream sold as Preserved Cream :—

	Number of samples examined for the presence of a preservative	Number in which a preservative was reported to be present
Milk	25...	Nil.
Cream	Nil.	Nil.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops.—The requirements of the regulations under the Dairies and Milkshops Order, have with one exception been completed at all the farms now occupied in the Borough. The farm buildings as regards lighting, air-space, and means of ventilation, are in a reasonably satisfactory condition.

Proceedings taken in connection with the supervision of Factories, Workshops, etc.

1.—INSPECTION.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR INSPECTORS
OF NUISANCES.

PREMISES.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
FACTORIES	3	...	...
(Including Factory Laundries).			
WORKSHOPS	70	...	...
(Including Workshop Laundries)			
WORKPLACES	98	...	...
 TOTAL	 171	...	...

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

PARTICULARS.	Number of Defects			Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—				
Want of Cleanliness.....	...	...	...	...
Want of Ventilation .....	...	...	...	...
Want of Drainage of Floors.....	...	...	...	...
Sanitary accommodation { Insufficient .....	...	...	...	...
{ Unsuitable or Defective ...	1	1	...	...
{ Not separate for sexes ...	...	...	...	...
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :—				
Illegal occupation of underground Bakehouses (S. 101) .....	...	...	...	...
Breach of Special Sanitary requirements for Bakehouses (SS. 97 to 100).....	...	...	...	...
TOTAL	1	1	...	...

DEATHS FROM INFLUENZA DURING THE YEAR 1918.

Age Periods.

Week ending.			0 to 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 30	30 to 35	35 to 40	40 to 45	45 to 50	50 to 55	55 to 65	65 to 70	70 to 80	80 and up	M	F
Jan.	5th	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	12th	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1
	19th	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	26th	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Feb.	2nd	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	9th	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	16th	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	23rd	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2
March	2nd	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	9th	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	16th	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	23rd	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	30th	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
April	6th	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	13th	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	20th	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
	27th	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
May	4th	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	11th	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	18th	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	25th	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
June	1st	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	8th	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	15th	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	22nd	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	29th	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
July	6th	.....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	1	...	3	4
	13th	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	5	1
	20th	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
	27th	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
August	3rd	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	10th	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
	17th	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	24th	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	31st	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sept.	7th	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	14th	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
	21st	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
	28th	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Oct.	5th	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

This table includes 11 deaths of Accrington residents occurring outside the Borough.

**DEATHS OF ACCRINGTON RESIDENTS.
CAUSES OF DEATH.**

	Males	Females
1. Enteric Fever .....	...	1
2. Small-Pox .....	...	...
3. Measles	2	1
4. Scarlet Fever .....	...	1
5. Whooping Cough	3	4
6. Diphtheria and Croup	5	3
7. Influenza	28	29
8. Erysipelas	2	1
9. Pulmonary Tuberculosis.....	19	23
10. Tuberculosis Meningitis	2	2
11. Other Tuberculous Diseases	6	3
12. Cancer, Malignant Disease	20	29
13. Rheumatic Fever.....	...	1
14. Meningitis	4	7
15. Organic Heart Disease	23	31
16. Bronchitis	18	31
17. Pneumonia (all forms)	33	34
18. Other Respiratory Diseases	1	7
19. Diarrhœa, etc., (under 2 years)	1	2
20. Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1	1
21. Cirrhosis of Liver	2	1
21A. Alcoholism .....	...	...
22. Nephritis and Bright's Disease	11	9
23. Puerperal Fever .....	...	...
24. Parturition, apart from Puerperal Fever .....	...	2
25. Congenital Debility, etc	11	14
26. Violence, apart from Suicide.....	9	4
27. Suicide	1	1
28. Other Defined Diseases	73	78
29. Causes ill-defined or unknown	3	3
	278	323
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age...	27	30
Total Births	323	288
Legitimate	310	271
Illegitimate.....	13	17

Population : For death-rate, 39,866 ; for birth-rate, 44,669.

TABLE (C).

COUNTY OF LANCASTER.

SUMMARY OF MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT FOR 1918.

BOROUGH OF ACCRINGTON.

Medical Officer of Health, ARTHUR GREENHALGH, M.R.C.S.
Salary as M.O.H., £100.

Inspector of Nuisances, RICHARD DIGGLE, A.R.S.I. Salary as
Inspector, £300.

What is the character of the Hospital Accommodation?—For
Small-pox: Corrugated iron building. For other Infectious Diseases:
Cases are removed to the Bury and District Joint Hospital by agree-
ment.

Is it Joint or otherwise?—Small-pox Hospital belongs to
Accrington, at present being used as a Military Hospital.

Number of Beds available for your District?—For Small-pox,
24. For other Infectious Diseases,—

Deaths in Hospital of patients removed from your District and
belonging thereto? 1. From what causes? Typhoid Fever.

How is Disinfection carried out?—Method, Formalin fumigation
and spray. No. of Houses disinfected?—75. Are Houses disinfected
after (A) Phthisis?—Yes.; (B) Measles?—No. Apparatus used for
Clothing, Bedding, etc., (steam or otherwise)? No. of Articles
disinfected?—402. Where is apparatus situated?—Hyndburn
Road Depot (within the district).

Are any Diseases not specifically mentioned in the Infectious
Diseases Notification Act notifiable (for instance, Whooping Cough,
Diarrhoea, Chicken Pox, etc.)?—If so, what are they?—

Diseases specially prevalent?—Influenza, Measles. Period?—
Influenza: Latter half of year. Measles: Throughout year.

No. of times School Closure adopted? For what disease?

Number of Special Reports made under Art. XIX. (15 and 16)
Sanitary Officers' Order, 1910?

Bacteriological Examinations. Specimens examined—Blood,—
Swabs, 1; Sputum, 6; Milk, None; Others, None.

Diphtheria Anti-toxin Order, 1910. Is a supply of Anti-toxin
kept within the district?—Yes. If so, where?—Most of Doctors
keep own supply. Amount used during 1918?—Considerable.

"The Housing of the Working Classes Acts, 1890 to 1909."—Has your Authority determined the procedure to be adopted for the inspection of your District as required by Article 1 of the Regulations?—Yes. Has your Authority prepared, as required by Article 1 (3), a list of dwelling-houses, the early inspection of which is desirable?—Yes. Has your Authority designated an officer to undertake the special inspection of houses and to keep the records stipulated by Articles (II) and (III.) If so, what officer?—Inspector of Nuisances. Have the necessary books, forms, etc., for keeping the required records been obtained and maintained?—Yes. Action taken in 1918 under the Housing Acts:—Total No. of dwelling-houses inspected for purposes of the Housing Acts, 4. No. of Dwelling-houses specially inspected under Sec. 17 of the Act of 1909, i.e., with a view to ascertaining whether any dwelling-houses are unfit for human habitation?—4. Have the particulars of these inspections, as specified in Article II. (1) to (8), and Article III. (1) to (8), of the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910, been fully recorded?—Yes. No. of dwelling-houses considered unfit for human habitation?—4. No. of representations to Authority with a view to making Closing Orders?—4. No. of Closing Orders made?—No. No. of Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied without making Closing Orders?—4. No. of dwelling-houses put into a fit state of habitation after making Closing Orders?—No. No. of dwelling houses demolished?—No. General character of defects found to exist?—Is there a deficiency of housing accommodation? If so, where, and to what extent?—Yes. What steps are being taken to meet the deficiency? A Committee has been appointed, and several schemes are being considered. Number of New Houses built during 1918—By and at the cost of the District Council?—Nil. By private enterprise?—Nil.

Source of Water Supply.—Dean Clough, Mitchell's, and Burnley Road reservoirs, in addition to a copious supply of deep well water from Altham. What is its condition?—Good. Possibilities of contamination?—Nil. Any insufficiency, and where?—Nil. Nature of extensions (if any) during the year?

Is Scavenging and Removal of House Refuse carried out satisfactorily for whole of district?—Yes. How performed (state whether by Sanitary Authority, Contract, or Occupiers of Houses)?—Sanitary Authority. If Privy Middens exist, are they emptied by day or night?—Day time.

How is Refuse disposed of?—Burnt. Has a Destructor been provided?—Yes. Horsefall's 6-cell Destructor. If so, where?—Off Argyle Street (within the District).

Sewage Disposal Works.—Method of Treatment?—Bacterial filter beds. What is the character of the Drainage System? Any developments during the year?—Good. Areas, or Townships, without proper drainage system?—Higher Baxenden. Action taken—Drain Testing, Flushing, etc.?—Drains tested with smoke.

Action taken with regard to the Pollution of Streams?—None.

Canal Boats: Number Inspected?—No. Number of infringements of Acts?—No.

What is the condition of the Bakehouses ?—Good. No. ?—100.
 What is the condition of Slaughter-houses ?—Good. No. Registered ?—
 3. No. Licensed ?—3. Has a Public Abattoir been provided ?—Yes.
 What is the condition of the Lodging-houses ?—Good. No. ?—3,
 Are they Registered ?—Yes.

What is the Sanitary condition of the Schools ?—Good.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops—Are they periodically
 inspected ?—Yes. What is their condition ?—Good. Have Regula-
 tions been made under the Order of the L.G.B. ?—Yes. Are they
 enforced ?—Yes. Amount of air space in cubic feet required for each
 cow ? (A) Where cows are habitually grazed ?—600 cubic feet ; (B)
 Where cows are not habitually grazed ?—800 cubic feet. Cowkeepers :
 Total No. of Cowkeepers in the Borough ?—45 ; outside the Borough ?—
 79. No. of Inspections during year ?—97. Dairymen or Purveyors
 of Milk (other than Cowkeepers)—Total No. of Dairymen or Milk
 Purveyors ?—14. No. on Register ?—14. Any arrangements for
 veterinary inspection of dairy cows ?—Veterinary Inspector appointed
 to examine all milk cows. Action taken (if any) as to tuberculous
 milk ?—

Inspection of Food—Amount condemned or surrendered as un-
 fit for human consumption—(A) Tuberculous carcasses and parts ?—
 5 Cattle, 1,956 lbs., and the organs of 17 Cattle ; (B) Diseased, unsound
 or unwholesome meat (other than above) ?—5 Cattle, 2,285 lbs.; Frozen
 beef, 452 lbs.; 49 Lambs, 583 lbs. ; (c) Other food stuffs ?—Fish.
 4,734 lbs.; 77 tins of condensed milk. No. of Legal Proceedings, and
 result ?—

Department of Inspector of Nuisances.—No. of Notices served ?—
 Informal, 74 ; Statutory, 116. No. of Nuisances abated ?—180.
 No. of Legal Proceedings taken, and result ?—Nil.

Closets and Ashpits.—Privy Middens :—No. of Middens ?—28.
 No. of Closets attached to these Middens ?—28. No. of Pail Closets ?—
 977. No. of Ashpits (excluding Middens) ?—5,000 estimated. No.
 of Fresh Water Closets ?—1,270. No. of Portable Receptacles for
 refuse ?—1,668 Bins. No. of Waste Water Closets ?—9,246. No.
 of Privy Closets converted during 1918 ?—To Fresh W.C.'s—Nil ;
 To Waste W.C.'s—Nil ; to Pails, etc.—Nil. No. of Pail Closets
 converted to —Fresh W.C.'s—Nil ; Waste W.C.'s—Nil. No. of
 Waste W.C.'s converted to Fresh W.C.'s ?—Nil. Does Council contri-
 bute towards the cost of conversion ?—Pails. If so, how much ?—
 Half cost. What kind of closet accommodation is being provided for
 new property ?—Waste Water Closet.

Smoke.—No. of Observations ?—Nil. No. of Legal Proceedings
 taken and result ?— What is the time limit allowed for the emission
 of black smoke per hour ?—

1 boiler—	3 minutes.
2 boilers—	5 „
3 „ 7 „	„

Has the Authority adopted—

“The Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890 ” ?—Yes..

“The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 ” ?—Yes.

“The Public Health Amendment Act, 1907 ” ?—Yes.

Has a Health Visitor been appointed by the Local Council ? State whether whole or part time ?—Yes, whole time. Qualifications of Health Visitor ?—3 years general training, 3 years fever training and C.M.B. certificate. Has any, and, if so what, action been taken by the Council respecting Child Welfare Work ?—Medical supervision has not yet been provided for.

Has any scheme been prepared in regard to the Supply of Food and Milk for Expectant and Nursing Mothers, and of Milk for Infants ?—Only private scheme. A local gentleman has generously provided one pint of milk for each soldier's infant up to the age of nine months.

Is there a District Nursing Association in the District ?—Yes. How many District Nurses employed ?—3. If so, does any arrangement exist between the Council and the Association in respect of Child Welfare Work ?—No. If no such arrangement exists, does the Association voluntarily undertake Child Welfare Work ?—Yes.

Notable Sanitary Improvements during 1918—None.

Chief Sanitary requirements of District.—Drainage for Higher Baxenden, fresh water closets, and galvanized refuse bins for each house.

Sanitary Department.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Sanitary Inspector

For the Year 1918.

RICHARD DIGGLE, Assoc. Royal San. Inst.,
Sanitary Inspector.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL,
ACCRINGTON.

**To the Sanitary Authority
of the Borough of Accrington.**

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my TWENTIETH ANNUAL REPORT, giving particulars of the work done by this department during the year 1918.

Owing to War conditions, there are no special structural improvements to property to report, the work done being limited to the maintenance of all existing conditions in a reasonable state of repair, and the prevention of nuisances.

Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909.

Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for the purpose of the Housing Acts only	4
Number of dwelling-houses specially inspected under Section 17 of the Act of 1909, with a view to ascertaining whether they are unfit for habitation...	4
Number of dwelling-houses considered unfit for habitation	4
Number of representations to Authority with a view to making Closing Orders	4
Number of Closing Orders made	Nil.
Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied without making Closing Orders	4
Number of dwelling-houses put into a fit state of habitation after making Closing Orders	Nil.
Character of defects found to exist :—Want of repairs generally.	

Nuisances.

Under this head the most common nuisances occur in connection with waste-water closets, and these have received considerable attention.

Defective drainage	13
„ tippers, etc., to W. W.C.'s	89
„ rain water pipes	13
„ roofs	3
„ bedroom floors	4
„ waste pipes	6
„ out-buildings	1
„ ashpit doors.....	16
Accumulation of manure	11
Blocked W. W.C.'s., and drains opened by Corporation workmen	1459
W. W.C.'s converted to fresh-water system. .	Nil.

Sanitary Conveniences.

The approximate number of each type is as follows :—

Fresh	Waste	Pail
Water Closets.	Water Closets.	Closets.
1270	9246	977

Factory and Workshops' Acts.

The inspection of Workshops has been carried out as in previous years. One complaint was received from H.M. Inspector of Factories, and the matter referred to was remedied.

Diseases of Animals Acts.

The provisions of these Acts, so far as they relate to this Department, have been given the attention required.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order.

The whole of the Cowsheds in the Borough were visited at least twice during the year, and the premises found to be kept in a fairly satisfactory condition.

Notices were sent to every farmer, in April and September, calling attention to the requirements as regards lime-washing, etc., and in every case the requirements were carried out.

Disinfection.

The following cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year :—

Measles	430
Scarlet Fever	7
Diphtheria	13
Typhoid Fever	6
Puerperal Fever	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	13
Erysipelas	20
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	65
Other forms of Tuberculosis	9

Each case was visited, and instructions given as to the necessary precautions to be taken to prevent the spreading of the diseases. After the recovery or death of the patients, the houses were disinfected with formaldehyde, and the bedding, clothing, etc., taken away and treated in the steam disinfecter.

75 rooms, 402 articles of clothing and bedding, 12 books, and 15 schools were disinfected, and 246 articles of clothing and bedding destroyed.

School Inspection

The Elementary Schools have been frequently inspected, especially during the Easter and July Holidays, when the periodical cleaning down is carried out. At such times the walls, etc., are swept down, and all furniture and floors are washed. It is a pleasure to report that the work has always been thoroughly carried out.

Slaughter Houses and Markets.

The Slaughter Houses and Markets have been kept under constant supervision, and the following food was condemned as unfit for human consumption :—

10 Cattle, weight, 4,241-lbs. ; the organs of 17 Cattle ; Frozen Beef, 452-lbs. ; 49 Lambs, 583-lbs. ; Fish, 4,734-lbs. ; 77 tins of Condensed Milk.

During the year, 1,969 beasts, 440 calves, 15,311 sheep and lambs, and 346 pigs have been slaughtered at the Corporation Abattoirs.

Offensive Trades.

The premises used for offensive trades are frequently inspected, and the businesses have been conducted during the year in a satisfactory manner.

Common Lodging Houses.

The three Lodging Houses have been frequently inspected, all of which are well conducted and kept in accordance with the Bye-laws, and without cause for complaint.

Removal of House and Shop Refuse.

The number of dwellings in the Borough is estimated at 11,234, and the amount of refuse collected and removed to the Destructor was 10,041 tons, and 1,821 tons (estimated) deposited on various tips, giving an average of 21 cwts. of refuse per house.

The cost of collection is shown on the last page of this report, and it will be of interest to compare the cost of collection by Electric and Horse Vehicle respectively. The Electric waggon has been working since May 1st, 1917, and, although the cost is shown to be slightly higher than horse labour, the cost per ton in the aggregate has been reduced by a healthy competition being established between the two systems.

The following are particulars of work done by horses during the past three years:—

Year.	No. of days worked by horses.	No. of loads	Weight per load.			Average daily weight per horse.			Total weight.		
			T. C. Q.			T. C. Q.			T. C. Q.		
			T.	C.	Q.	T.	C.	Q.	T.	C.	Q.
1916	1448	6360	1	9	3	6	11	1	9510	17	2
1917	888 $\frac{1}{4}$	3911	1	13	2	7	7	2	6559	10	2
1918	720 $\frac{1}{2}$	3003	1	17	3	7	18	0	5594	13	3

showing a nett gain over 1916 of 245 days of Team and Manual Labour, which represents the equivalent of 1,935 tons of refuse collected, or a nett saving of £364 10s. 4d.

The number of refuse receptacles emptied during the year has been as follows:—

Ashpits.	Ashtubs.	Ashbins.
44,414	7,145	39,429

Average number of applications received daily for the emptying of ash receptacles:—

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	Jun.	July.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
3.0	4.2	3.1	3.1	3.2	1.8	1.6	1.2	0.5	0.9	0.8	1.6

Manure Pits.

In April, handbills were sent out calling attention of all horse owners to the Bye-law, which requires that all stable manure shall be removed at least once in seven days, and it is a pleasure to report that the majority have carried out the requirements satisfactorily.

Lime Washing.

Lime washing is often neglected for want of materials, and to encourage householders to carry out this work, brushes are lent out on application at the Health Office. A deposit of 6d. is left on the brush, and a charge of 2d. is made for the first day, and 1d. for each following day, until the brush is returned. Brushes have been lent out 257 times during the year.

Street Scavenging.

The number of men on the regular street cleansing staff is 30. Horse machine brushes are worked during the night for sweeping the main roads, a gang of men following the machine, and the sweepings being collected and earted to the Depot. 14 men with handcarts are engaged in different parts of the town, collecting the usual street litter.

In addition to the refuse collected by handcarts, 1,237 loads of sweepings and 1,468 loads of refuse from street gullies have been collected.

The wages for this Department, during the year, amounted to £2,563 7s. 11d.

Salvage.

The outstanding feature of the year has been the work in connection with the collection and disposal of waste.

The National Salvage Council have done much good work in stimulating the collection of waste material, and assisting in its effective disposal. In spite of the difficulties arising from the shortage of labour, it has been found possible to collect and utilize much more waste material than in previous years.

In February, handbills were delivered from house to house, urging householders to save such waste as vegetable matters, bones, paper, etc., and a separate weekly collection has since been made.

Most of this waste has been utilized in feeding pigs, the average number of pigs kept being about 100, the number sold as store pigs being 27. 39 pigs, weighing 2,895-lbs., have been slaughtered for food, and realised £411 18s. 5d.

Other vegetable waste which could not be immediately used, has been passed through a mincer, dried and stored for future use.

All meat condemned as unfit for human food, has been treated in a suitable plant. After the fat had been extracted an excellent food was prepared suitable for cattle and poultry.

At present, Accrington is the only authority in the district possessing a plant for the conversion of fish waste into valuable by-products. In this connection, an arrangement has been made with the neighbouring Authorities of Oswaldtwistle, Church, Blackburn, Darwen, and Burnley, for the fish waste collected to be treated at Accrington. An additional machine has been installed at a cost of about £240 for extracting the oil from dried fish meal. The value of the meal is thereby improved, and the oil thus extracted is a valuable product.

Old tins and scrap have been treated and sold for re-manufacture. A hydraulic press has been installed for pressing the material into bales, and the machine enables us to store much more of the metal. It is also better to handle, and is increased in value.

Other material sorted from refuse such as rags, bones, metal polish tins, bottles, jars, scrap iron, broken glass and waste paper, have found a ready market, and I have no doubt that the salvage of waste will continue to grow, and that no authority will tolerate the passing of such material through the destructor, when it can be economically utilised.

The following is the weight of material sorted from refuse, and the amount realised for same, together with the residuals, etc., from the Destructors :—

1918.

	T.	C.	Q.	Lbs.	£	s.	d.
No. 1 Waste Paper	3	7	1	1	46	19	10
No. 2 Waste Paper	0	15	2	15	8	16	9
No. 3 Waste Paper	10	13	1	4	79	18	4
Scrap Tins	49	8	3	0	96	8	9
Light Scrap Iron	3	15	1	0	8	9	4
Tin Plates	1	8	2	0	11	8	0
Metal Polish Tins	0	3	3	13	3	17	4
Rags	0	14	2	24	7	17	4
Broken Glass	3	6	0	0	4	2	6
Bottles and Jars .....	...	...	...	...	2	6	5
Fish Manure	23	5	1	13	360	15	0
Vegetable Meal	2	14	3	0	41	1	3
Mortar	1190	12	2	0	415	16	10
Clinker	89	13	2	0	6	14	6
Street Sweepings, etc.	327	15	3	0	99	14	11
Calorific Power, $\frac{1}{4}$ year	2829	11	0	0	129	13	9
(Electricity Dept.) $\frac{3}{4}$ year @ £150 per quarter					450	0	0
Pig Hair	0	1	0	18	1	17	11
Fat	0	6	2	13	16	3	1
Bones	0	8	0	9	5	16	6
Feeding Stuffs (C.M.) Estimated	0	19	2	15	12	16	8
Vegetable Refuse (Estimated)	68	10	0	0	68	10	0
					£1879	5	0

Last year £1425 18 11

Amount of Refuse, etc., and Cost of Collecting and Destroying same for the Year ended 31st December, 1918.

By Team Labour.

By Team Labour.				Average		Per
				weight.		load.
				T.	C.	Q.
3003 loads of Domestic Refuse. .	5694	13	3	1	17	3
122 „ Market Refuse ...	62	8	0	0	10	0
Fish and Trade Refuse	567	13	0			
	6324	14	3			

By Electric Vehicle.

	T.	C.	Q.	T.	C.	Q.	
1724 Loads of Domestic Refuse. .	3576	9	1	2	1	1	..
4 ,, Market Refuse ...	6	18	3	1	14	2	..
	3583	8	0				

By Petrol Motor.

120 Loads of Domestic Refuse ...	130	7	0	1	1	2	..
4 ,, Market Refuse ...	3	3	2	0	15	3	..
	133	10	2				

Total weight of Refuse brought
to Destructors 10041 13 1

Cost of Collection by Horses :—

Domestic Refuse only (5694 tons)

	£	s.	d.	s.	d.	ton.	
Wages	314	9	2	1	1.2	..	
Team Labour	760	11	9	2	8.0	..	
	1075	0	11	3	9.2	..	

Cost of Collection by Electric Vehicle :—

Domestic Refuse only (3576 tons)

Wages	465	19	11	2	7.2	..	
Running costs, 2220½ hrs. @ 2/2	240	11	1	1	4.1	..	
	706	11	0	3	11.3	..	

Cost of Collection by Petrol Motor

Domestic Refuse only (130 tons)

Wages	12	14	7	1	11.5	..	
Running Costs, 118¼ hrs. @ 1/6..	8	17	5	1	4.3	..	
	21	12	0	3	3.8	..	

Cost of Destruction—

All Refuse (10041 tons) ... 1543 6 3 3 0.8 ..

Total Cost of Collection and

Destruction £3346 10 2 6 7.9 ..

RICHARD DIGGLE,

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendant.